

Comment: "Bent Pin - S121A" on page 138 of the July/August issue of *TPB* drew three letters.



S121

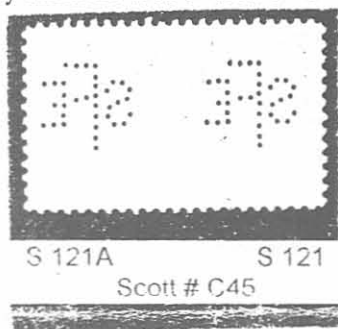


S121A

Chuck Spaulding (#2355) provided the above illustrations showing a pair of *Scott Catalogue* number 1025 which shows S121 and S121A adjacent to each other. This would seem to confirm that they were both part of a multi-headed device.

September 1996

Paul A. Mistretta (L111) wrote to let me know that the November/December 1979 issue of *TPB*, p. 2., noted that S121 was at least a two-head die. The issue illustrates S121 and S121A being punched on contiguous stamps (they formed a *se-tenant* pair). Paul also notes that former US Catalog Editor, Harry Rickard who had worked in an aircraft pattern shop during WWII, reamed him for using the term "bent pin" in *TPB*. It appears that two slightly different dies existed on a multiple die.



Robert Balcome (L106) provided the above illustration which shows both patterns on a single stamp (*Scott Catalogue* number C45). Because both patterns exist on the same stamp we can eliminate the single die theory. Also, the theory that S121's design was intentionally altered so as to distinguish the using office can be laid to rest.

Balcome reports that upon close examination, it appears that if a centerline were extended from the right pin hole horizontally to the left on the S121A pattern, the centerline would be tangent to the intersected right pin hole. This would mean that if the broken pin/ repaired die theory were to apply, the new hole's center would have to be drilled into one-half of the existing hole which in all likelihood dislodge the imbedded pin. A craftsman would not do this. If this assumption is correct, that leaves us with one explanation as to the reason for the two design varieties. The die maker simply erred when he was drilling the block.